

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PRS-01 L-01 SP-02 H-01 DHA-02 PM-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3777
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1681

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PINT, UN, CI, US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH FORMER CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALMEYDA;
OTHER ALMEYDA ACTIVITIES

REF: A. USUN 1451; B. TYSON-SCHIELE TELECONS OF MAY 17, 20
AND 21

1. SUMMARY: ALMEYDA IS OPTIMISTIC THAT CHANGE IN POLITICAL
SITUATION IN CHILE IS POSSIBLE. HE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO
WORK WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (CD), CLAIMED EXTENSIVE CONTACTS
WITH THEM AND HOPES TO ESTABLISH REGULAR CONTACTS WITH USG.
CONTENT OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT (REFTEL) APPARENTLY DISTRIBUTED
ON MAY 25 TO SOME NEWSMEN. ALMEYDA PLANS EXTENSIVE
CONTACTS WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND CLAIMS TO HAVE
APPOINTMENT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER FOR FRIDAY
AFTERNOON. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING REF TELECONS, LOWENSTEIN AND MISOFF SPENT AN
HOUR ON MAY 24 WITH CLODOMIRO ALYEYDA (FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER
OF CHILE AND LEADER IN EXILE OF POPULAR UNITY U.L.) , LUIS
MAIRA (FORMER FEDERAL DEPUTY AND IN EXILE I MEXICO
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CITY), AND JAIME BARRIOS (DIRECTOR OF CHILE DEMOCTATICO
OFFICE IN NYC).

3. THE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THEIR VISITS WITH UN-
UNSYG BUFFUM AND UN-SYG WALDHEIM ON MAY 24, AND SAID THEY
WANT TO URGE "FULL COMPLIANCE" WITH UN RESOLUTIONS
CONCERNING CHILE, AND IN MAINTAINING THE WORK OF THE AD

HOC SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ON CHILE. THEY OFFERED NO DETAILS OF THE RESPONSES, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT BOTH WERE SUPPORTIVE AND POSITIVE.

4. THEY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE "WORDS AND DEEDS" OF PRESIDENT CARTER, US SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTIONS ON CHILE, AND ASKED WHAT THE US INTENDED TO DO TO IMPLEMENT ITS VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTIONS. THEY SAID PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH HAD RADICALLY CHANGED THE US IMAGE IN LATIN AMERICA.

5. MAIRA SAID THAT REPRESSION CONTINUES ESPECIALLY AGAINST THE SOCIALIST PARTY SINCE APRIL 30 AND NOTED THAT CENSORSHIP AND GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE PRESS IS INCREASING, THERE ARE MORE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST WORKING CLASS GROUPS, AND THAT TORTURE CONTINUES. THEY ARGUED THAT THE MAJOR FOCUS OF US EFFORTS OUGHT TO BE IN THE AREA OF PRESSING FOR SOME ACCOUNTING OF "DESAPARECIDOS" (MISSING PERSONS). THEY ARGUED THAT ALL THE EVENTS OF THIS YEAR SHOW THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO "DESTROY THE FOUNDATIONS OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN CHILE," AND SEES ITSELF AS A PERMANENT "FACSICT" STATE. THEY SAID IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PINOCHET WILL BE REPLACED BY THE ARMY SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE IN AN ATTEMPT TO PLACATE THE US. THEY ARGUED THAT THERE ARE STRONG GROUPS (UNSPECIFIED) IN THIS COUNTRY WHO, UNDER THE GUISE OF "SEEKING REFORM" IN CHILE, WANT THE PRESENT REGIME TO CONTINUE.

6. THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION
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AT THE OAS MEETING IN GRENADA WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ESPECIALLY DESAPARECIDOS, AND WOULD SEEK A FULL DEBATE OF THE REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

7. ALMEYDA SAID HE IS PLEASED WITH THE CONTACTS HE HAS HAD SO FAR, HE HOPES TO SEE SENATOR KENNEDY, AND HE APPEARED PLEASED AT THE PROSPECT OF SEEING A HIGH DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN REGULAR CONTACTS WITH THE USG. ALMEYDA SAID HE BELIEVED THAT "THIS BEGINNING OF A NEW DIALOGUE" WITH US OFFICIAL WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.

8. ALMEYDA SAID CD LEADERS, IN A MEETING LAST WEEK IN NYC, HAD REAFFIRMED THEIR POSITION THAT THE CD IS THE ONLY WAY TO MOVE BACK TO A DEMOCRATIC CHILE, AND ONCE AGAIN REJECTED U.P. OVERTURES FOR A UNITED OPPOSITION FRONT. ALMEYDA SAID THE U.P. IS EAGER TO WORK WITH THE CD, AND HAS MANY CD ALLIES. ALMEYDA SUGGESTED THE DESIRABILITY OF A JOINT MANIFESTO, CALLING FOR A RETURN TO FREE ELECTIONS, A

MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM, AND LEGAL PROCESSES -- NOT PURGES -- AGAINST THE TORTURERS, ETC. ALMEYDA SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT AN OPEN ALIANCE WITH THE CD IS NECESSARY AND INEVITABLE AND CAN BE ACHIEVED SOON. THE U.P. LEADERS THEMSELVES SEE FREI AS THE BIG PROBLEM (HOWEVER, A GOOD DEAL OF THE OLD BITTERNESS TOWARDS FREI SEEMS TO HAVE DISSIPATED).

9. COMMENT: DURING MEETING WITH MISOFF, ALMEYDA WAS VERY CORDIAL AND DID NOT ADOPT THE DEMANDING TONE OF HIS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT. HE OBVIOUSLY BELIEVES THAT FUTURE CONTACTS WILL BE IMPORTANT AND USEFUL AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES ARE HAVING AN IMPORTANT EFFECT IN CHILE. ALMEYDA DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH BUT SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND SOME ENGLISH. A TRANSLATOR WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL FOR ANY MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT.
DURING HIS SPEECH AT THE CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN

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RELATIONS (BELOW), ALMEYDA MADE NO REMARKS CRITICAL OF THE USG. END COMMENT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 1681

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10. PRESS INQUIRY. MISSION PRESS OFFICE WAS QUERIED ON MAY 25 BY NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT KITTY TELTSCH ABOUT "PUBLIC

LETTER SENT BY ALMEYDA TO THE PRESIDENT." MISOFF ASKED PRESS OFFICE TO REPLY THAT A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY MISSION AND FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT SOME DAYS AGO. FURTHERMORE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALMEYDA LUNCHEON WITH JOURNALISTS FROM SEVERAL EUROPEAN PAPERS, INCLUDING THE "LONDON TIMES."

11. ALMEYDA SPEECH. IN A SPEECH TO A SMALL GROUP AT THE CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS ON MAY 25, ALMEYDA SAID THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION IN CHILE TO THE JUNTA AND DESCRIBED THE JUNTA'S SITUATION AS PRECARIOUS. HE DESCRIBED THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND THE CHURCH AS MAIN-STAYS OF THE OPPOSITION. ONLY 20 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ACTUALLY SUPPORT THE JUNTA. ALMEYDA CONTINUED THAT US POLICY IS IMPORTANT IN ASSISTING CHILE TO RETURN TO DEMOCRACY BUT IS NOT THE DETERMINING FACTOR.

12. ALMEYDA'S SCHEDULE. ON MAY 25, BARRIOS TOLD US ALMEYDA HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON FRIDAY, APPOINTMENTS WITH KENNEDY, BADILLO CONFIDENTIAL

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AND HARKIN, AND A PROBABLE APPOINTMENT WITH CRANSTON, THURSDAY AFTERNOON. ALMEYDA IS ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING AMB YOUNG IN WASHINGTON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY. ALMEYDA IS DUE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

13. BARRIOS ALSO INDICATED THAT ALMEYDA HAD DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT TO SOME OF THE NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL WRITERS WITH WHOM HE LUNCHEON YESTERDAY, INCLUDING THE "NY TIMES." WHEN QUERIED WHY HE DID NOT WAIT FOR A POSSIBLE RESPONSE, BARRIOS SAID THAT THE SITUATION WAS DEVELOPING SO RAPIDLY AND SO FAVORABLY THAT THE LETTER WAS ALREADY IN PART IRRELEVANT, BUT THAT THEY STILL HOPED FOR SOME RESPONSE. BARRIOS INDICATED THAT THERE WERE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH THE CD ON WHAT TO DO IN CASE THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT FELL, BUT THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS DID NOT FEEL THAT THIS COULD BE MADE PUBLIC YET, AND WOULD PROBABLY DENY THE CONTACTS IN QUERIED. HE INDICATED THAT THE TWO PARTIES HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL THE POSSIBLE TRANSITION AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

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Message Attributes

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